Setting Up of IT Institute in Kabul

3872. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has decided to set up an I.T. Institute in Kabul besides schools and hospitals; and

(b) if so, by when the construction would start and the target set up for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) Government of India is committed to offer assistance in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan. During the visit of H.E. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of the Afghan Interim Administration, to India on 26-27 February 2002, the areas of Health, Education, Information Technology, Industrial development, Public Transport and Training were identified for bilateral cooperation. Projects under consideration include contribution to computerization of Ministries in the Afghan Interim Administration and setting up of a computer training centre.

Pakistani Missiles

3873. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that spokesperson of General Musharraf has said that Pakistan is in possession of missiles which can target any city in India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and what precautionary measures Government are going to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen such reports.

(b) Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme.